

# ST. MICHAEL'S RETREAT

LUMSDEN, SASKATCHEWAN





# THE DEDICATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S RETREAT



## EXPLANATION OF COAT OF ARMS

*The crest, designed for St. Michael's Retreat House, combines the Franciscan coat of arms with the sword and wings of St. Michael the Archangel. The flaming sword and outspread wings, symbolic of St. Michael, form a cross which suggests the Greek letter TAU so often used by St. Francis, who, inspired by the Apocalypse of St. John, saw in it the sign of those who are Christ's followers. The Franciscan coat of arms represents the wounded hand of Christ and the hand of St. Francis, expressive of the Stigmata which St. Francis received and his conformity in body and soul to Christ.*



## Most Holy Father

Venerable Hieromonks Sebastian

and

humbly prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness,  
beas the Apostolic Blessing for  
the Franciscan Fathers and Brothers  
of St. Michael's Retreat House, London,  
Saskatchewan, to the members of St. Michael's  
Retreat House, and to the Generators.

St. Michael's Retreat House, London,  
Saskatchewan, die 2 mai 1963.

St. Michael's Retreat House

CHANCERY OFFICE  
2107 GARNET STREET  
PHONE 522-4732

## Archdiocese of Regina

REGINA, SASK.

June 28, 1963.

Rev. Father Bertin Foxen, O.F.M.,  
St. Michael's Retreat House,  
Lumsden, Saskatchewan.

Dear Father Bertin:

It is a source of great joy for me to be able to welcome the opening of the newly constructed St. Michael's Retreat House at Lumsden. This means the fulfilment of a long and cherished dream that one day our clergy, religious and laity would be provided with a haven of peace and spiritual refreshment.

Many centuries ago St. Peter Chrysologus urged his faithful with this famous invitation:

"We have given a year to the body, let us give days to the Soul....Let us live to God a little who have lived the whole time to the world. Let the Divine voice sound in our ears; let not the noise of the household confuse our hearing.... Being thus armed, brethren, and thus instructed let us declare war on sins....secure of victory."

This sets in relief the purpose of a retreat - to recollect ourselves and to turn our thoughts, too often immersed in earthly cares, to better things. We are living in an age that is characterized by a preoccupation and passionate absorption in externals. There is an insatiable thirst for riches and pleasures that gradually weakens and extinguishes in the minds of men the desire for more excellent goods. Too easily are forgotten eternal truths, God's laws and even God Himself. Our late Holy Father, John XXIII, on more than one occasion deplored the imbalance between spiritual and material progress.

Most of all there is needed the cultivation and formation of an apostolic spirit. To see clearly the value of souls, to be inflamed with the desire to help them, is the vocation of every Christian.

I am pleased that the Franciscan Fathers have accepted the direction of the Retreat House. Their experience in this field guarantees its success. My fondest hope is that from its first beginnings it will attract a host of retreatants and be for them and the Archdiocese a source of spiritual growth and blessings.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

*+ McConneil*  
Archbishop of Regina





The Lord bless thee and  
keep thee. - May He show His  
face to thee and have mercy on  
thee. - May He turn His benig-  
nity to thee and give thee  
peace. - The Lord bless thee!

To the Franciscan Fathers  
and Brothers of St. Michael's  
Retreat House, Dundee, Gas-  
katchewan, to the members of  
St. Michael's Retreat League  
and the Benefactors we impart  
the Graphic Blessing as a  
testimony of our particular af-  
fection and as a pledge of nu-  
merous spiritual favors.

Rome, May 11th, 1963.

Fr. Aug. Sépinski.

Minister General O. F. M.



OFFICE OF THE CUSTOS

PHONE: 15

FRANCISCAN CUSTODY OF CHRIST THE KING  
MOUNT ST. FRANCIS

COCHRANE, ALBERTA, CANADA

June 15, 1963

Dear Friends of St. Michael's Retreat House:

After much hard work and many anxious moments, St. Michael's Retreat House is now a reality. As we chant our "Te Deum", we fervently add the prayer, "Confirm, O God, the work You have wrought in us!" For, surely this is the work of God, with all the characteristics of such an undertaking, its trials and final triumphs!

Henceforth this beautiful structure, in the majestic setting of the Qu'Appelle Valley, will in the words of our beloved Pope John, be "a blessed oasis of prayer and recollection, where in the light of the Blessed Sacrament, all classes of workers may attain peace, serenity, comfort and spiritual refreshment, renewal and pardon, and holy resolutions to persevere in faithfulness to the Divine law" (To members of the Retreat Movement, Jan. 21, 1959).

Next to God we wish to thank all those who by their efforts and co-operation have made St. Michael's Retreat House a reality. We are particularly grateful to His Grace, Archbishop M.C. O'Neill, to the Archdiocesan Clergy, to Rev. Fr. Timothy Gilker, O.F.M., Rev. Fr. Wilfrid Brazeau, O.F.M., Rev. Fr. Bertin Foxen, O.F.M., Rev. Fr. Cornelius Williams, O.F.M., Rev. Fr. William Francis Collins, O.F.M., and our devoted Brothers. We thank the members of the St. Michael's Retreat League, the Trustees of the Friars Minor of Western Canada, and all those friends and benefactors who by their generous donations or through the purchase of debentures have made it possible to finance this gigantic venture. A special word of thanks goes to Mr. Jeno Kozma and his associate Mr. Poule Hansen for creating this beautiful architectural design, and to Poole Construction Company for bringing the building through its final stages. May God bless each and all for their share in this work!

From now on the doors of St. Michael's will open wide to all, Catholics and non-Catholics, who wish to find peace and rest within its walls! "O come to Me, all you who are weary and overburdened, and I will refresh you!"

*L. Wenceslaus Sebastian, O.F.M.*

Provincial Superior.



# THE FATHERS



FR. WILFRID BRAZEAU, O.F.M.  
Superior



FR. TIMOTHY GILKER, O.F.M.  
Pioneer



FR. BERTIN FOXEN, O.F.M.  
Retreat Director



FR. CORNELIUS WILLIAMS,  
O.F.M., Retreat Master



FR. WILLIAM COLLINS, O.F.M.  
Retreat Master



## THE BROTHERS

The Franciscan Brothers are co-workers with the Franciscan Fathers. They are dedicated men who by their prayers and labours aid in the Franciscan Apostolate of bringing men to God.



BRO. LOUIS JOSEPH  
LAPERRIERE, O.F.M.



BRO. STEPHEN  
CAPUSTINSKY, O.F.M.



BRO. GUY  
SAINT-PIERRE, O.F.M.



BRO. FERNAND  
ROUSSEAU, O.F.M.

*Other Brothers on Staff Not Shown*

BROTHER KENNETH BEATON

BROTHER DOMINIC TESSIER

BROTHER BERNARD GAREAU

## FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF ST. ELIZABETH

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth will have a convent at St. Michael's Retreat. They will be in charge of preparing the meals for the Retreatants. The Sisters specialize in this type of work and are expert cooks. They have been associated with the Franciscan Retreat House at Mount St. Francis in Cochrane, Alberta, since 1949. We welcome them to St. Michael's.



Left to right: SISTER DOROTHY, SISTER MARY PASCHAL, MOTHER FLORIANNE, Superior General, SISTER CECILIA, Superior, SISTER ROSE.

# THE RETREAT MOVEMENT

The seed of the Retreat Movement was planted many years ago by Christ Himself when He would take the Apostles and go off to a desert place for a few days. During this time spent in seclusion, they would pray and think things over and prepare themselves for the work ahead.

Ever since that time Christians have periodically gone away from their everyday routine busy environments to a place apart where they could pray and think things over and renew their strength and faith. However there were relatively few who could avail themselves of this opportunity. It is true that the clergy and religious would make a yearly retreat, but for the most part there were no facilities set aside for Lay Retreats as such.

Then, during the 20th Century, the idea of Lay Retreats began to catch hold and even mushroom into a widespread popular movement. This is not surprising since the Retreat Movement fulfills a need of this 20th Century when the tensions and pressures of everyday living are continually mounting.

To most people in Saskatchewan however, the idea is entirely new. It is hoped that with the opening of St. Michael's Retreat House they will soon become acquainted with the idea through their own personal experience. The popularity of the Retreat Movement in other areas and the ever growing number of Retreat enthusiasts indicate that those who have never made a Retreat can look forward to something very special and delightful.



His Grace Archbishop O'Neill, ever solicitous about the souls committed to his care and knowing the spiritual benefits that would accrue to his people, has long looked forward to establish a Retreat House for this Archdiocese. A few people in this area having profited by personal retreats, were enthusiastic about sharing their good fortune with others. As a result, in 1960, plans were launched which were to bring about the building of St. Michael's Retreat House. His Grace Archbishop O'Neill asked the Franciscan Fathers of Western Canada if they would take over this project. Being an entirely new area in which most of the people didn't even know what a Retreat House was, this proved a major undertaking. Special credit must go to Father Timothy Gilker, O.F.M., who first undertook this monumental task. Accordingly a group of clergy and Catholic laymen and laywomen was organized into what is known as St. Michael's Retreat League. It was their objective to raise the necessary funds for building the Retreat House and to generate enthusiasm for the Retreat Movement.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to each and every one who was instrumental in bringing about the completion of this great project. The labors and difficulties encountered will be amply justified and rewarded when the rich harvest of spiritual good is gathered in during the years to come.

St. Michael's Retreat League was inaugurated on March 14th, 1962, in order to assist the Franciscan Fathers in planning and building a Retreat House. This league consisted of some thirty prominent Catholic lay people, together with each pastor from the City of Regina. His Grace Archbishop O'Neill appointed the directors of St. Michael's Retreat League in an advisory capacity.

## DIRECTORS OF RETREAT LEAGUE

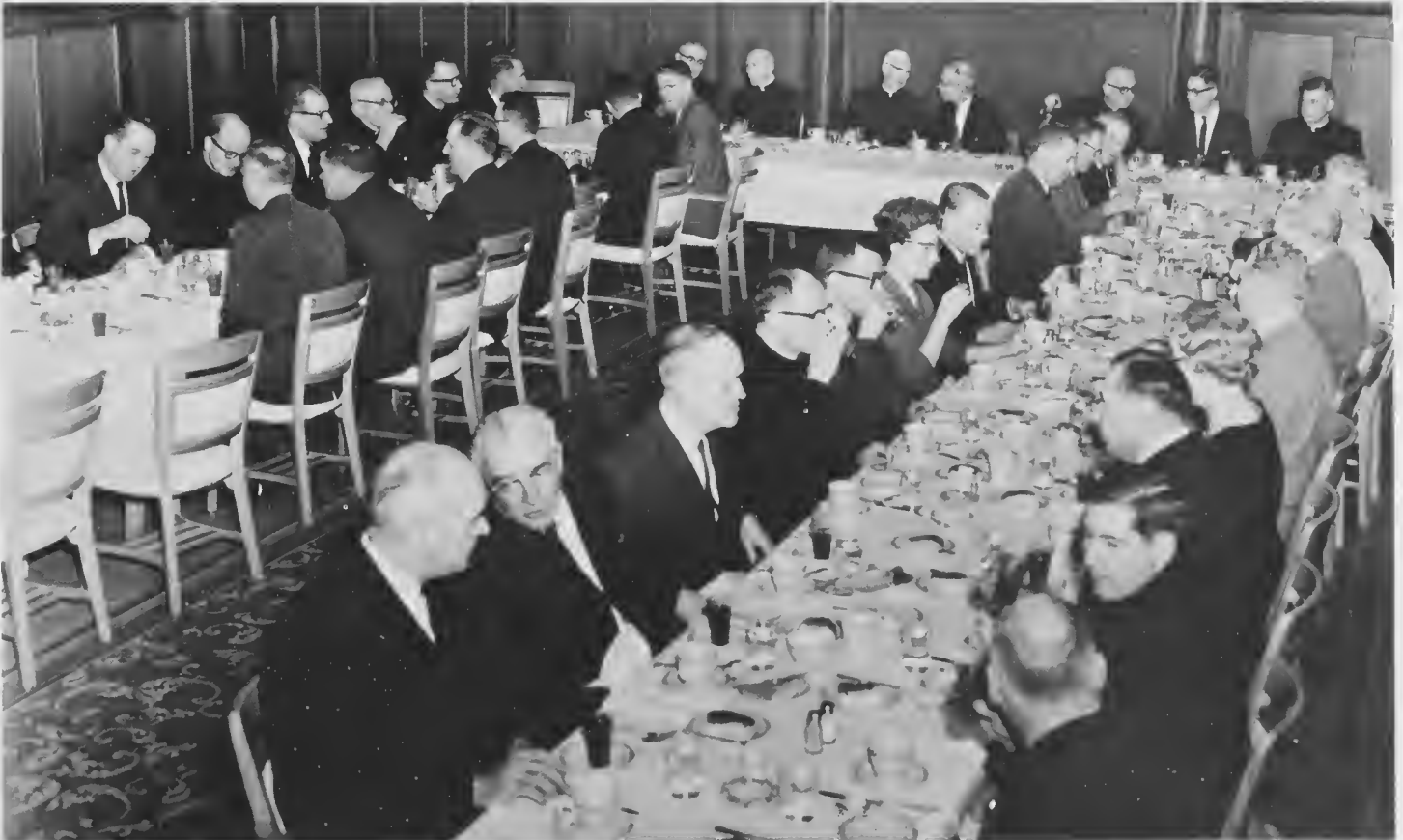


PHOTO: ED DALEY

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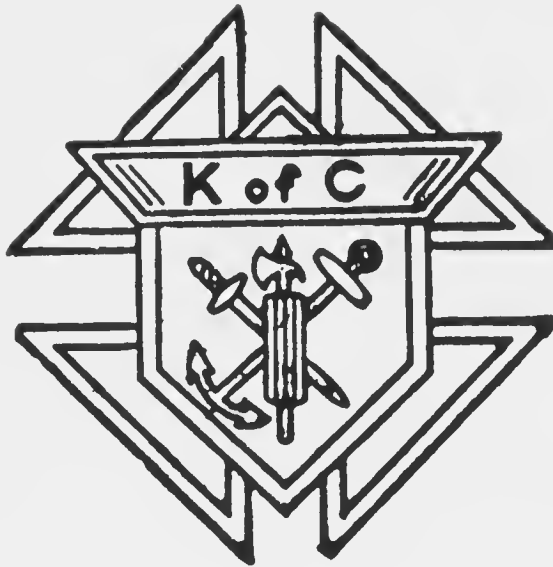
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PHOTO: FR. BERTIN FOXEN, O.F.M.



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—MATT. 16: 26



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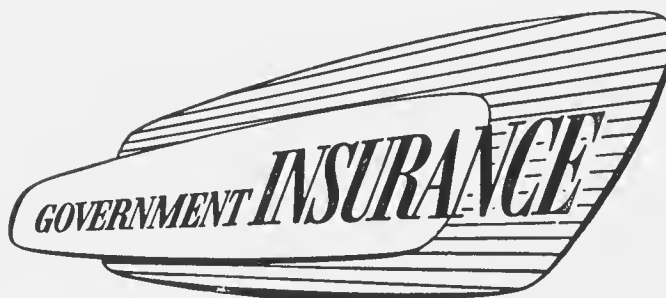
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When Saint Francis of Assisi first left the world to follow Christ he went to the little church near Assisi called the Portiuncula or "the little portion". It was a small church dedicated to the Mother of God under the title Queen of the Angels. As Francis was praying before the Crucifix he heard a voice saying "Francis rebuild my Church". Francis took the command literally, but later on understood that Christ was asking him to help rebuild His Church by bringing men back to God. The Feast of our Lady of Portiuncula, the Queen of the Angels is celebrated on August 2nd, but today, August 4th, we celebrate the solemnity of the Feast which in so many ways recalls the purpose for which the Franciscan Order was established. Through St. Michael's Retreat House we hope to carry out that command given to our Founder, Saint Francis of Assisi, "rebuild my Church". It is strikingly fitting then that the Retreat House which bears the name of Archangel Michael should be dedicated on the solemnity of the feast of the Queen of the Angels.

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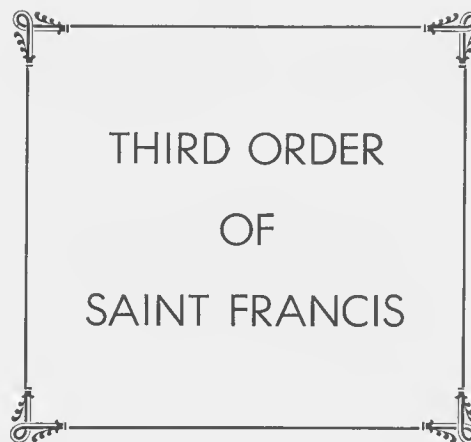
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## PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

*LORD, make me an Instrument  
of Your Peace;*

*Where there is hatred, let me  
sow love;*

*Where there is injury,  
pardon;*

*Where there is doubt, faith;*

*Where there is despair, hope;*

*Where there is darkness,  
light;*


*Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled, as  
to console; to be understood, as to  
understand; to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are par-  
doned, and it is in dying that we  
are born to Eternal Life. Amen.*









*This is your Retreat House. It is meant to serve you, the people of Western Canada. As a Retreat House its influence will be dynamic and far-reaching. It will be a center of spiritual strength from which many blessings will flow. To benefit fully one must take an active part by making a Retreat. So we cordially invite you to make a Retreat. It will be an experience you will long cherish.*